

Defectors Seen Aiding Reds in Code-Cracking

By the Associated Press

Russia may be expected to use the highly specialized knowledge of the two defected National Security Agency men for help in code-cracking techniques.

This appears probable on the basis of the work done by Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin at the top-secret headquarters of NSA in Fort Meade, Md.

Two congressional groups are going to look into the defection of the code clerks. A special Armed Services subcommittee investigating the activities of intelligence agencies will open hearings next Thursday. Witnesses will include Maurice H. Klein, NSA's director of personnel, and Gen. C. P. Cabell, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The House Committee on Un-American Activities plans to open another hearing next Friday.

Favors Shooting Them

The question of the defectors came up last night when former President Truman talked with newsmen on his arrival in New York. Mr. Truman said "I think they're a couple of traitors and if we had them back here they ought to be shot. These birds didn't know anything about the security of the country."

There appears to be no belief that Mitchell and Martin took with them to Russia any vital policy or military plans.

The Defense Department, in one of its few and reluctant discussions of the case, said earlier this week that "they had no access to classified information about American weapons or defense plans." And the Pentagon statement also sought to dismiss this point with the comment that "the two men were both junior mathematicians of GS-11 grade, employed in limited areas of communications statistical work at the National Security Agency."

However, a study of the qualifications needed by a GS-11 (for "general schedule, grade 11") mathematician is interesting.

Must Use Computers

He must have mastered "advanced statistical analysis requiring a thorough appraisal of sources of data, skill, judgment and resourcefulness in the selection and use of statistical methods" and possess "a marked ability in the preparation of statistical reports embodying the interpretation and

analysis of calculated statistical measures."

For these purposes, he must use electronic computers.

Electronic computers today are at the heart of methods for deciphering and decoding intercepted cryptographic messages. The major function of NSA, with its complex of overseas listening posts, is to tune in on the cryptographic messages transmitted by Russian and other Communist stations.

The precise procedure used by NSA in setting up computers for code cracking, together with the methods of interpreting the computer's answers, must be of important value to the Russians.